

Signs of Spring



FRAGRANCE AND FLOWERS are always welcome in the garden, but never more so than in early spring. This fragrant winterhazel (*Corylopsis glabrescens* ‘March Jewel’), located near a pair of benches in one of River Farm’s borders, beckons winter-weary visitors on the occasional balmy March day to rest and take in the beauty and sweet scent of its pendulous, pale yellow flower clusters. Like its relative the witchhazel (*Hamamelis* sp.), fragrant winterhazel blooms on bare wood, before leaves emerge. This cultivar has a compact spreading habit, making it well suited to small gardens. All winterhazels grow best in sheltered spots in full sun to light shade with moist but well-drained soil. USDA Zones 6–9, AHS Zones 9–6. 